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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Cheng et al.

Before the Examiner: Baum, Ronald

Serial No.: 09/657,122

Group Art Unit: 2136

Filed: September 7, 2000

IBM Corporation

Title: VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK

WITH MULTIPLE TUNNELS ASSOCIATED WITH ONE GROUP 11400 Burnet Road

NAME

Austin, Texas 78758

Intellectual Property Law Dept.

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

RECEIVED

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JUN 1 6 2004

Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action having a mailing date of April 19, 2004 (Paper No. 4), having a three-month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 19, 2004, please reconsider the rejections of the claims in view of the following remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 18 of this paper.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any item referred to as being enclosed herewith) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 10, 2004.

Serena Beller

(Printed name of person certifying)